(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard;

(c) whether raids have been conducted in Delhi and Bombay recently; and

(d) if so, the amount recovered in the raids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) Government is fully committed to combat the menace of black money. One of the policy of the Government is to increase voluntary compliance, by enlarging the scope of Summary Assessment Scheme and by reducing tax rates. The other limb of the policy is intensification of deterrent actions like intensive scrutiny, search and seizures, prosecution and survey operations.

(c) and (d) During the period 1-1-1987 to 31-7-1987 a total number of 1176 searches were conducted in Delhi and Bombay, resulting in seizurt of *prima-facie* unaccounted assets worth Rs. 24.63 crores.

NRI investment in Karnataka

3905. SHRI VEERSHETTY MOGLAPPA KUSHNOOR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have received any proposal from the Karnataka State Government with NRI investment after the visit by the Industries and Power Minister of Karnataka State to South East Asian countries in the year 1986; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects and the total amount proposed to be invested and the stage of the proposals at which they are resting presently with the Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B .K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Visit of non-athlete officials to Olympic Games, Los Angeles

3906. SHRI VEERSHETTY MOGLAPPA KUSHNOOR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Legislators and Ministers who visited Los Angeles in 1984 from Karnataka, in connection with the Olympic Games; and

(b) whether Government before according approval satisfied the need of such a trip of those who were not atheletes and what was the total foreign exchange released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Levy of professional tax

3907. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra Government has urged the Union Government for the amendment of Constitution for the purpose of increasing of maximum limit for levy of professional tax;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard; and

(c) considering the erosion in the value of rupee whether Government propose to suitably revise the ceiling accordingly and if so, by when amendment to Constitution will be brought to Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Clause (2) of Article 276 of the Constitution would have to be amended to increase the limit for levy of profession tax. The proposal to amend the provisions of the Constitution for this purpose is under active consideration with the Government of India.

Biotechnology in food production and processing

3908. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the write-up regarding prospects of biotechnology in food production and processing which appeared in the clarity of Bombay of 28th June 1987; if so, what are the details thereof, itemwise;

(b) whether it is a fact that results of research and development are not being fully utilised at present, leading to continued dependence on imports; and

(c) whether results of research and development would be effectively used in order to create employment and Gross National Product in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The Government has gone through an article published in CLARITY of Bombay on 28th June 1987 which appears to reflect the personal views of the author. The Govt. is fully aware of the advancement made and the prospects of Biotechnology in food production, and processing. The Government keeping in view, national and international developments, continuously updates the long term plans especially in area of national priority and thrust. For example in the area of ethyl alcohol production using cane molasses, Research and Development is underway for increasing the process efficiency through development of higher alcohol tolerance in the yeast, more efficient and less energy consuming process for alcohol recovery. As far as utilising the enzyme process for fructose syrups is concerned, in our country where cane sugar is produced in very large quantities the production of liquid fructose syrup is not economically viable. In the area of dairy products, the National Dairy Research Institute at Karnal had developed a microbial rennet substitute for cheese production which is under further development.

The country has achieved significant progress in the area of production and use of industrial and medicinal enzymes. A number of enzymes required to convert starch to glucose are being produced and used successfully. National Research and Development has also resulted in the development of immobilised enzymes based production of a key antibiotic intermediate, 6-APA. A number of diagnostic enzymes are being produced for clinical uses including in ELISA. The National Technology Missions are primarily meant to utilise recent scientific and technological developments in the area of biotechnology for the production of essential cell based vaccine, immunodiagnostics (based) on monoclonal antibodies) impovement of cattle breed and prouctivity using Embryo Transsfer Technology, prouction of large quantities of edible oil using high yielding coconut and oil palm based on tissue culture control of vector born diseases based on biological pest control agents, production of elite fast growing fuel wood species using tissue culture etc.

(b) No Sir. Results of National Research and Development are increasingly being utilised for large scale use.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Setting up of Finance House

3909. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has decided to set up a "Finance House" as recognised by the Vaghul Working group;